RULES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON RULES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

U.S. House of Representatives

99th Congress

Rule XI, 1(a)(1) of the House of Representatives provides:

> The rules of the House are the rules of its committees and subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day is a motion of high privilege in committees and subcommittees.

Rule XI, 2(a) of the House of Representatives provides, in part:

> Each standing committee of the House shall adopt written rules governing its procedure. * * *

In accordance with the foregoing, the Committee on Rules adopted the following Rules of Procedure on February 5, 1985.

RULE 1—APPLICABILITY OF HOUSE RULES

The Rules of the House of Representatives are the rules of the Committee on Rules (hereafter in these rules referred to as the "Committee") so far as applicable, together with the rules contained herein.

RULE 2—SCHEDULING AND NOTICE OF MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

REGULAR MEETINGS

(a)(1) The Committee shall regularly meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday of each week when the House is in session.

(2) A Tuesday meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chairman of the Committee (hereafter in these rules referred to as the "Chair"), there is no need for the meeting.

(3) Additional regular meetings and hearings of the Committee may be called by the Chair or by the filing of a written request, signed by a majority of the members of the Committee, with the Staff Director of the Committee.

NOTICE FOR REGULAR MEETINGS

(b) The Chair shall notify each member of the Committee of the agenda of each regular meeting or hearing of the Committee at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting or hearing and shall provide to each such member, at least 24 hours before the time of each regular meeting or hearing—

> (1) for each bill or resolution scheduled on the agenda for consideration of a rule, a copy of (A) the bill or resolution,

(B) any committee reports thereon, and (C) any letter requesting a rule for the bill or resolution; and

(2) for each other bill, resolution, report, or other matter on the agenda, a copy of (A) the bill, resolution, report, or materials relating to the other matter in question, and (B) any report on the bill, resolution, report, or other matter made by any subcommittee of the Committee.

EMERGENCY MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

(c)(1) The Chair may call an emergency meeting or hearing of the Committee at any time on any measure or matter which the Chair determines to be of an emergency nature; provided, however, that the Chair has made an effort to consult the Ranking Minority Member.

(2) As soon as possible after calling an emergency meeting or hearing of the Committee, the Chair shall notify each member of the Committee of the time and location of the meeting or hearing and shall particularly make an effort to consult the Ranking Minority member of the Committee or, in such Member's absence, the next ranking minority party members of the Committee.

(3) To the extent feasible, the notice provided under paragraph (2) shall include the agenda for the emergency meeting or hearing and copies of available materials which would otherwise have been provided under subsection (b) if the emergency meeting or hearing was a regular meeting or hearing.

Rule 3—Meeting Procedures

IN GENERAL

(a)(1) Meetings and hearings of the Committee shall be called to order and presided over by the Chair or, in the Chair's absence, by the Ranking Majority Member of the Committee present as Acting Chair.

(2) Meetings and hearings of the Committee shall be open to the public unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(3) The five-minute rule shall be observed in the interrogation of each witness before the Committee until each member of the Committee has had an opportunity to question the witness.

(4) When a recommendation is made as to the kind of rule which should be granted for consideration of a bill or resolution, a copy of the language recommended shall be furnished to each member of the Committee at the beginning of the Committee meeting at which the rule is to be considered or as soon thereafter as the proposed language becomes available.

VOTING

(b)(1) No measure or recommendation shall be reported, deferred, or tabled by the Committee unless a majority of the members of the Committee is actually present.

(2) A rollcall vote of the Committee shall be provided on any question before the Committee upon the request of any member of the Committee.

(3) A record of the vote of each member of the Committee on each rollcall vote on any matter before the Committee shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Committee.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (f)(3), the members of the Committee, or one of its subcommittees, present at a meeting or hearing of the Committee or the subcommittee, respectively, may, by majority vote, limit the duration of debate, testimony, or Committee or subcommittee consideration with respect to any measure or matter before the Committee or subcommittee, respectively, or provide for such debate, testimony, or consideration to end at a time certain.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

(c)(1) The Committee and each of its subcommittees may permit, by majority vote for each day of an open meeting or hearing of the Committee or of that subcommittee, respectively, the coverage of that meeting or hearing, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, or still photography.

(2) Any media coverage under this subsection shall be subject to all the requirements and limitations set forth in clause 3 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and the provisions of subparagraphs (1) through (13) of paragraph (f) of such clause are hereby incorporated as part of the rules of the Committee applicable to such coverage.

QUORUM

(d)(1) For the purpose of hearing testimony on requests for rules, five members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(2) For the purpose of hearing and taking testimony on measures or matters of original jurisdiction before the Committee, three members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(3) For the purpose of the Committee's ordering a measure or recommendation reported, closing any of its meetings or hearings to the public, sitting in executive session, or issuing a subpoena, a majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

SUBPOENAS AND OATHS

(e)(1) Pursuant to clause 2(m) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, a subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee, on its own initiative or on behalf of a subcommittee thereof, in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present.

(2) The Chair may authorize and issue subpoenas under such clause during any period in which the House has adjourned for a period of longer than three days.

(3) Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chair or by any member designated by the Committee, and may be served by any person designated by the Chair or such member.

(4) The Chair, or any member of the Committee, may administer oaths to witnesses before the Committee.

HEARINGS ON RULES

(f) The following procedures shall apply, as determined by the Chair, acting on behalf of the Committee, in cooperation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, to Committee meetings and hearings on rules:

(1) A measure or matter before the Committee which is determined to be non-controversial as to both type of rule and substantive content may be scheduled for consideration by the Committee without any hearing.

(2) A measure or matter before the Committee which is determined non-controversial as to substantive content but controversial as to type of rule may be the subject of a Committee hearing at which the principal proponents and opponents of the rule will be provided an opportunity to testify only as to the type of rule to be granted.

(3) A measure or matter before the Committee which is determined to be controversial as to substantive content by at least six members of the Committee will be the subject of a Committee hearing at which all interested Members of Congress who are proponents or opponents of the measure or matter will be provided a reasonable opportunity to testify.

GENERAL OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY

(g)(1) The Committee shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within its jurisdiction.

(2) Upon direction of the Chair, the Committee shall meet to discuss and formulate oversight plans for each new Congress, as described in clause 2(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 4—SUBCOMMITTEES

APPLICATION OF HOUSE AND COMMITTEE RULES

(a)(1) As provided by clause 1(a)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, subcommittees of the committee are a part of the Committee and are subject to its authority and direction.

(2) Subcommittees of the Committee shall be subject (insofar as applicable) to the Rules of the House of Representatives and, except as provided in this rule, to the rules of the Committee.

ESTABLISHMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

(b)(1) There shall be two subcommittees of the Committee as follows:

(A) *Subcommittee on the Legislative Process,* which shall have general responsibility for measures or matters related to relations between the Congress and the Executive branch.

(B) *Subcommittee on Rules of the House,* which shall have general responsibility for measures or matters related to relations between the two Houses of Congress, relations between

the Congress and the Judiciary, and internal operations of the House.

In addition, each such subcommittee shall have specific responsibility for such other measures or matters as the Chair refers to it.

(2) Each subcommittee of the Committee shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within its general responsibility.

REFERENCE OF MEASURES AND MATTERS TO SUBCOMMITTEES

(c)(1) In view of the unique procedural responsibilities of the Committee—

(A) no special order providing for the consideration of any bill or resolution shall be referred to a subcommittee of the Committee, and

(B) all other measures or matters shall be subject to consideration by the full Committee except for those measures or matters referred by the Chair to one or both subcommittees of the Committee.

(2) The Chair may refer a measure or matter, which is within the general responsibility of one of the subcommittees of the Committee, jointly or exclusively to the other subcommittee of the Committee where the Chair deems it appropriate.

(3) In referring any measure or matter to a subcommittee, the Chair may specify a date by which the subcommittee shall report thereon to the Committee.

(4) The Chair or a majority of the members of the Committee may re-call for full Committee consideration any measure or matter referred to a subcommittee of the Committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

(d) The size and ratio of each subcommittee shall be determined by the Committee at its organizational meeting at the beginning of each Congress. Members of the Committee shall be appointed to subcommittee by the Chair in accordance with the rules applicable to each party.

SUBCOMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

(e)(1) The majority party members of the Committee shall have the right, in order of full Committee seniority, to bid to be the chairman of one of the subcommittees of the Committee. Any such bid shall be subject to approval by secret ballot of a majority of the members of the majority party caucus of the Committee. If such members reject a member's bid to chair a subcommittee, the next most senior majority member of the Committee may bid for the chair as in the first instance.

(2) The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall designate one of the minority party members appointed to each subcommittee of the Committee to serve as ranking minority member for that subcommittee.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

(f)(1) Each subcommittee of the Committee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, mark up legislation, and report to the full Committee on any measure or matter referred to it.

(2) No subcommittee of the Committee may, without the Chair's approval, meet or hold a hearing at the same time as a meeting or hearing of the full Committee is being held.

(3) The chair of each subcommittee shall schedule meetings and hearings of the subcommittee only after consultation with the Chair.

(4) A member of the Committee who is not a member of a particular subcommittee of the Committee may sit with the subcommittee during any of its meetings and hearings, but shall not have authority to vote, cannot be counted for a quorum, and cannot raise a point of order at the meeting or hearing.

QUORUM

(g) A quorum of each subcommittee of the Committee shall consist of a majority of the members of the subcommittee for purposes of closing a meeting or hearing of the subcommittee to the public or for ordering a measure or recommendation reported to the full Committee. For all other purposes, one-third of the members of a subcommittee shall constitute a quorum. Any vacancy in the membership of a subcommittee shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the functions of the subcommittee.

RECORDS

(h) Each subcommittee of the Committee shall provide the full Committee with copies of such records of votes taken in the subcommittee and such other records with respect to the subcommittee as the Chair deems necessary for the Committee to comply with all rules and regulations of the House.

RULE 5—BUDGET AND TRAVEL

BUDGET

(a) The Chair, in consultation with other members of the Committee, shall prepare for each session of Congress a budget providing amounts for staff, necessary travel, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee and its subcommittees.

TRAVEL

(b)(1) The Chair may authorize travel for any member and any staff member of the Committee in connection with activities or subject matters under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is granted, there shall be submitted to the Chair in writing the following:

(A) The purpose of the travel.

(B) The dates during which the travel is to occur.

(C) The names of the States or countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each.

(D) The names of members and staff of the Committee for whom the authorization is sought.

(2) Members and staff of the Committee shall make a written report to the Chair on any travel they have conducted under this subsection, including a description of their itinerary, expenses, and activities, and of pertinent information gained as a result of such travel.

(3) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, and regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration.

RULE 6—STAFF

IN GENERAL

(a)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this rule, a Staff Director of the Committee, professional and clerical staff of the Committee, and investigating staff of the Committee compensated from funds provided by any expense resolution, shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the Chair and shall work under the general supervision and direction of the Chair.

(2) Except for any staff appointed by the ranking minority party member of a subcommittee (pursuant to subsection (c)) or by any other minority party member of the Committee (pursuant to subsection (b)), all professional and clerical staff provided to the minority party members of the Committee under paragraphs (a)(2) and (b)(2), respectively, of clause 6 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee and shall work under the general supervision and direction of such Member.

ASSOCIATE STAFF

(b) Each member of the Committee is authorized to designate one person, whom the Chair shall appoint to the professional or clerical staff of the Committee and who shall work under the general supervision and direction of the member. The type of staff to which such a person is appointed shall be determined by the Chair, in the case of a person recommended by a majority party member, and shall be determined by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, in the case of a person recommended by a minority party member.

SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF

(c)(1) The chair and ranking minority member of each subcommittee of the Committee are each authorized to designate one person, whom the Chair shall appoint to the professional staff of the Committee and who shall work under the general supervision and direction of the chair or the ranking minority member, respectively, of the subcommittee.

(2) The chair may assign investigating staff of the Committee compensated from funds provided by any expense resolution to assist in work of a subcommittee of the Committee to the extent the Chair determines it to be appropriate, and any such staff to the

extent so assigned shall work under the general supervision and direction of the chair of the subcommittee.

COMPENSATION OF STAFF

(d)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Chair shall fix the compensation of all professional, clerical, and investigating staff of the Committee, as provided by clause 6(c) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(2) Compensation paid to associate staff appointed under subsection (b) shall not exceed 63 per centum of the maximum established in Clause 6(c) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

CERTIFICATION OF STAFF

(e)(1) To the extent any staff member of the Committee or any of its subcommittees does not work under the supervision and direction of the Chair, the member of the Committee who supervises and directs the staff member's work shall file with the Staff Director of the Committee (not later than the tenth day of each month) a certification regarding the staff member's work for that member for the preceding calendar month.

(2) The certification required by paragraph (1) shall be in such form as the Chair may prescribe, shall identify each staff member by name, and shall state that the work engaged in by the staff member and the duties assigned to the staff member for the member of the Committee with respect to the month in question met the requirements of clause 6 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(3) Any certification of staff of the Committee, or any of its subcommittees, made by the Chair in compliance with any provision of law or regulation shall be made (A) on the basis of the certifications filed under paragraph (1) to the extent the staff is not under the Chair's supervision and direction, and (B) on his own responsibility to the extent the staff is under the Chair's supervision and direction.

RULE 7—COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION

REPORTING

(a) Whenever the Committee authorizes the favorable reporting of a bill or resolution from the Committee—

(1) the Chair or Acting Chair shall report it to the House or designate a member of the Committee to do so, and

(2) in the case of a bill or resolution in which the Committee has original jurisdiction, the Chair shall allow, to the extent that the anticipated floor schedule permits, any member of the Committee a reasonable amount of time to submit views for inclusion in the Committee report on the bill or resolution.

Any such report shall contain all matters required by the Rules of the House of Representatives (or by any provision of law enacted as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House) and such other information as the Chair deems appropriate.

RECORDS

(b)(1) There shall be a transcript made of each regular meeting and hearing of the Committee, and the transcript may be printed if the Chair decides it is appropriate or if a majority of the members of the Committee requests such printing.

(2) The minutes of each executive meeting of the Committee shall be available to all Members of the House of Representatives in compliance with clause 2(e)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(3) The Committee shall keep a record of all actions of the Committee and of its subcommittees. The record shall contain all information required by clause 2(e)(1) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall be available for public inspection at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee.

CALENDARS

(c)(1) The Committee shall maintain a Committee Calendar, which shall include all bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to or reported by the Committee and all bills, resolutions, and other matters reported by any other Committee on which a rule has been granted or formally requested. The Calendar shall contain (A) the number, a brief description, and the name of the principal sponsoring Member of each such bill or resolution, (B) the name of the committee or committees which reported such bill or resolution (in the case of measures on which a rule has been granted or formally requested), and (C) such further information as the Chair may direct. The Calendar shall be published periodically, but in no case less often than once in each session of Congress.

(2) The staff of the Committee shall furnish each member of the Committee with a list of all bills or resolutions on which a rule has been formally requested but not yet granted. The list shall be updated each week when the House is in session and shall contain (A) the number, a brief description, and the name of the principal sponsoring Member, of each such bill or resolution, (B) the name of the committee or committees which reported such bill or resolution and the dates of such reports, (C) the date on which a rule was formally requested, and (D) a description (if any) of the rule requested by each such committee.

(3) For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2), a rule is considered as formally requested when the chairman of a committee which has reported a bill or resolution (or a member of such committee authorized to act on the chairman's behalf) (A) has requested, in writing to the Chair, that a hearing be scheduled on a rule for the consideration of the bill or resolution, and (B) has supplied the Committee with an adequate number of copies of the bill or resolution, as reported, together with the final printed committee report thereon.

OTHER PROCEDURES

(d) The Chair may establish such other Committee procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out these rules

or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee and its subcommittees.

Rule 8—Amendments to Committee Rules

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed by a vote of a majority vote of its members, but only if written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each such member at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting at which the vote on the change occurs.

Clause 3 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives

Broadcasting of Committee Hearings

3. (a) It is the purpose of this clause to provide a means, in conformity with acceptable standards of dignity, propriety, and decorum, by which committee hearings, or committee meetings, which are open to the public may be covered, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, or by any of such methods of coverage—

(1) for the education, enlightenment, and information of the general public, on the basis of accurate and impartial news coverage, regarding the operations, procedures, and practices of the House as a legislative and representative body and regarding the measures, public issues, and other matters before the House and its committees, the consideration thereof, and the action taken thereon; and

(2) for the development of the perspective and understanding of the general public with respect to the role and function of the House under the Constitution of the United States as an organ of the Federal Government.

(b) In addition, it is the intent of this clause that radio and television tapes and television film of any coverage under this clause shall not be used, or made available for use, as partisan political campaign material to promote or oppose the candidacy of any person for elective public office.

(c) It is, further, the intent of this clause that the general conduct of each meeting (whether of a hearing or otherwise) covered, under authority of this clause, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, or by any of such methods of coverage, and the personal behavior of the committee members and staff, other Government officials and personnel, witnesses, television, radio, and press media personnel, and the general public at the hearing or other meeting shall be in strict conformity with and observance of the acceptable standards of dignity, propriety, courtesy, and decorum traditionally observed by the House in its operations and shall not be such as to—

(1) distort the objects and purposes of the hearing or other meeting or the activities of committee members in connection with that hearing or meeting or in connection with the general work of the committee or of the House; or

(2) cast discredit or dishonor on the House, the committee, or any Member or bring the House, the committee, or any Member into disrepute.

(d) The coverage of committee hearings and meetings by television broadcast, radio broadcast, or still photography is a privilege made available by the House and shall be permitted and conducted

only in strict conformity with the purposes, provisions, and requirements of this clause.

(e) Whenever any hearing or meeting conducted by any committee of the House is open to the public, that committee may permit, by majority vote of the committee, that hearing or meeting to be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, or by any of such methods of coverage, but only under such written rules as the committee may adopt in accordance with the purposes, provisions, and requirements of this clause: *Provided, however,* Each committee or subcommittee chairman shall determine, in his discretion, the number of television and still cameras permitted in a hearing or meeting room.

(f) The written rules which may be adopted by a committee under paragraph (e) of this clause shall contain provisions to the following effect:

(1) If the television or radio coverage of the hearing or meeting is to be presented to the public as live coverage, that coverage shall be conducted and presented without commercial sponsorship.

(2) No witness served with a subpena by the committee shall be required against his or her will to be photographed at any hearing or to give evidence or testimony while the broadcasting of that hearing, by radio or television, is being conducted. At the request of any such witness who does not wish to be subjected to radio, television, or still photography coverage, all lenses shall be covered and all microphones used for coverage turned off. This subparagraph is supplementary to clause 2(k)(5) of this rule, relating to the protection of the rights of witnesses.

(3) The allocation among the television media of the positions of the number of television cameras permitted by a committee or subcommittee chairman in a hearing or meeting room shall be in accordance with fair and equitable procedures devised by the Executive Committee of the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.

(4) Television cameras shall be placed so as not to obstruct in any way the space between any witness giving evidence or testimony and any member of the committee or the visibility of that witness and that member to each other.

(5) Television cameras shall operate from fixed positions but shall not be placed in positions which obstruct unnecessarily the coverage of the hearing or meeting by the other media.

(6) Equipment necessary for coverage by the television and radio media shall not be installed in, or removed from, the hearing or meeting room while the committee is in session.

(7) Floodlights, spotlights, strobelights, and flashguns shall not be used in providing any method of coverage of the hearing or meeting, except that the television media may install additional lighting in the hearing or meeting room, without cost to the Government, in order to raise the ambient lighting level in the hearing or meeting room to the lowest level necessary to provide adequate television coverage of the hearing or meeting at the then current state of the art of television coverage.

(8) In the allocation of the number of still photographers permitted by a committee or subcommittee chairman in a hearing or meeting room, preference shall be given to photographers from Associated Press Photos and United Press International Newspictures. If requests are made by more of the media than will be permitted by a committee or subcommittee chairman for coverage of the hearing or meeting by still photography, that coverage shall be made on the basis of a fair and equitable pool arrangement devised by the Standing Committee of Press Photographers.

(9) Photographers shall not position themselves, at any time during the course of the hearing or meeting, between the witness table and the members of the committee.

(10) Photographers shall not place themselves in positions which obstruct unnecessarily the coverage of the hearing by the other media.

(11) Personnel providing coverage by the television and radio media shall be then currently accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.

(12) Personnel providing coverage by still photography shall be then currently accredited to the Press Photographers' Gallery.

(13) Personnel providing coverage by the television and radio media and by still photography shall conduct themselves and their coverage activities in an orderly and unobtrusive manner.

The rule permitting broadcasting of committee hearings was contained in section 116(b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1140) and became part of the rules on January 22, 1971 (H. Res. 5, 92nd Congress, p. 144). On July 22, 1974 (H. Res. 1107, 93rd Congress, p. 24447), the rule was amended to permit committees to adopt rules allowing coverage of committee meetings as well as hearings.

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